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PRINCETON · NEW JERSEY



PRESENTED BY

Mr. Joseph MacCarroll, Stated Clerk,
Synod of New Jersey

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Presbyterian Church in the
U.S.A. Synod of New Jersey
Minutes of the ... annual
session of the Synod of New

MINUTES

of the

SYNOD OF NEW JERSEY

for the year ending

October, 1839.

M I N U T E S

of the

ANNUAL SESSION

of the

SYNOD OF NEW JERSEY

for the year 1839

Trenton, New Jersey, October 15, 1839

The Synod met at 3 o'clock p.m. and was opened with a sermon from Timothy 4:16 by the Rev. John McLean the Moderator, and was constituted by prayer.

Present from the Presbytery of Elizabethtown

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Elders</u>
Rev. David Magie		
Abra. Williamson	1st Ch. E. Town	Edward Landerson
Wm. D. Barton	2nd Ch. E. Town	James Brown
Holloway W. Hunt	Chester	Henry Hodges
Alfred Chester	Woodbridge	Wm. V. Cutter
Wm. B. Blauvelt	2nd Ch. Woodbridge	W. H. Ross
Joseph M. Ogden	Lamington	Benj. McDowell
Hunting		
Dr. Senevay		
Rev. Nicholas Murray	Westfield	Henry Baker
	Baskingridge	Jonathan Alward
Oscar Harris	Liberty Corner	Isaac Lewis
James T. English		
Robert Street		
Benj. Cory	Perth Amboy	Charles H. Ford

Presbytery of New Brunswick

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Elders</u>
Rev. Saml. Miller, D.D.		
A. Alexander, D.D.	Kingston	Benj. Griggs
David Comfort	Trenton 1st	Nath. Lanning
James Carnahan, D.D.	Shrewsbury	Christopher Magie
Isaac L. Brown	Boundbrook	Samuel Swan
Eli F. Cooley	Allentown	Wm. Inlay
Benj. H. Rice	Lambertsville	Wm. Wilson
Symmes C. Henry	Pennington	Charles Welling
Charles Webster	Trenton City	H. McNeely
David H. Rodgers	Lawrence	Walter Smith

Resolved, that inasmuch as all the Minutes of the meetings of Synod of the last year were printed and in the hands of the members that the reading of them be dispersed with.

Those Ministers present who were absent from the last meeting of Synod assigned satisfactory reasons for their absence.

Messrs. J. McLean, Ogden, Dr. Junkin, Platt and Foster, Ministers and Brown, Inlay and King, Elders were appointed a committee of bills and overtures to meet in this place after the Synod adjourns this evening and afterwards on their own adjournment.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Swan were appointed to examine the Treasurer's Account.

To Examine the records of
the Presbytery of

Elizabeth town	Mr. Castner and Foster, Ministers Mr. Smith, Elder
New Brunswick	Mr. Murray and Platt, Ministers Mr. Gaunderson, Elder
Newton	Mr. Williamson and Henry, Ministers Mr. Alward, Elder
Cusquehanna	Mr. Condee and Norton, Ministers Mr. McCowell, Elder
Caledonia	Mr. Magie and Hall, Ministers Mr. Wilson, Elder

The reports of the Presbyteries of Elizabeth town, New Brunswick, Newton and Caledonia were presented, read and accepted and the Rev. Baynard A. Hall, Joseph W. Blythe and George Hale, and I. A. Alexander Deusett of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and the Rev. Elias S. Schenck, Albert William and Jonathan H. Sherwood of the Presbytery of Newton being present took their seats as members.

The committee to make arrangements for the Missionary Meeting this evening reported the following which was adopted, viz., that the Moderator preside and state the object of the Meeting giving out a psalm, Prayer by Mr. Gray, Address by Mr. Junkin, Singing, Address by Dr. Alexander, Prayer by Mr. Platt, Hymn and Benediction by the Moderator.

Presbytery of New Brunswick (cont)

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Elders</u>
Rev. Henry Berkin	New Brunswick	Saml. Baker
Peter O. Studdiford	2nd Cranbury	John Covert
James D. Fisher		
James W. Alexander		
John W. Yeomans		
John McLean		
Wm. A. L. Betts		
Jas. W. Woodward		
Jos. W. Elythe		
Baynard K. Hale		
George Hale		
Jos. W. Alexander		

Presbytery of Newton

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Elders</u>
Rev. Joseph L. Shafer		
Jacob R. Castner	Hackettstown	John Bind
Geo. Junkin, D.D.	Mansfield	Phineas Barber
John Gray	Boston	Enoch Green
I. N. Condee	Belvidere	Geo. R. King
John McNair	Oxford	James Miles
Jas. Scott	Lus. Valley	Frederic Lunger
Leslie Irwin	Greenwich	John A. Creveling
Jas. M. Olmstead	Clinton	Nehemiah Lunham
David Lull	Flemington	Paul Rubr
Elias S. Schenck	Anwell 5th	Peter Young
Albert Williams	German Vally and	Fox Hill David Neighbour
Jona. W. Sherwood	Pleasant Grove	Robert C. Stevens

Presbytery of Susquehanna

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Elders</u>
Rev. Julius Foster		

Presbytery of Caledonia

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Elders</u>
Rev. Isaac W. Platt		

The Rev. Joseph L. Shafer was unanimously chosen Moderator and the Rev. Eli F. Cooley and Rev. Ravaud K. Rodgers were chosen Clerks.

Here insert the Minutes respecting the Presbytery of Newark.

The printed Minutes of the last meeting of synod distributed among, etc.

Synod had a recess until 7 o'clock this evening. After recess the synod attended to Religious Exercises agreeably to the preceeding arrangements.

Adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday Morning October 16, 1839

9 o'clock a.m. Synod met and began with prayer- present as before together with the Rev. Abraham Dewitt of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and Rev. John Dorrance of the Presbytery of Susquehanna, Mr. Jacob Lane, Elder from the congregation of Princeton of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and Rev. I. Kirkpatrick and John Vanderveer of the Presbytery of Newton.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's Accounts reported that they had examined the same, compared them with the vouchers and found them correct and that there is a balance due the Treasurer of \$36.70 and they recommended that a collection taken up of fifty cents from each member for the purpose of meeting the balance. Saml. Swan, Saml. Baker. The above report was accepted and adopted.

Communication were received from the Rev. D. V. McLean, Bond, Kirtland and Waddington stating their inability from sickness and other causes to attend the present meeting of the Synod and their excuses were sustained.

The Rev. Luther Halsey, Van Buren of the Synod of Missouri being present was invited to sit as a correspondent.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for Religious Exercises further reported, that the Synod will attend to the Celebration of the Lord's Supper this evening and that Mr. Murray make the introductory remarks and prayer, Mr. Kirkpatrick dispense the elements and Magie deliver an address and the concluding prayer and benediction by Mr. Condee.

Mr. Alexander look at last years Minutes.

The committee appointed to examine the printed Minutes of the last General Assembly reported the following objects as worthy the attention of the Synod, viz., article 4 in the report of the committee on the state of the Church on page 152 of printed minutes and also the subject of the centenary celebration, see page 169. The report was accepted and laid on the table.

Resolved, that Dr. Alexander, Mr. Magie, Mr. Condee, Mr. Platt and Foster be a committee to take into consideration the subject of the Celebrating of the Lord's Supper by the Synod at its future meetings and report thereon.

The Presbytery of Caledonia reported the reception of the Rev. Thomas Aitkin a foreign Minister and asked the action of Synod respecting the subject.

The request was referred to Dr. Carnahan, Mr. Blauvelt, Ministers and Mr. Green, Elder to report thereon.

Resolved, that the next meeting of Synod be held at Wilkesbarre on the first Thursday after the 3rd Tuesday in October in 1840 at 3 o'clock p.m.

A circular letter was received from the General Agent of the three Boards of the General Assembly, viz., The Education, Foreign and Domestic Missionary Board which was referred to the Rev. Messrs. Williams, Brown, Gray, Conance and Platt.

Also a communication was received from the Executive Committee of the Foreign Missionary Board in relation to the erection of a Mission House in the City of New York was read. Ordered to be put on file.

A letter was received from Mr. Geo. Rupers of the State Penitentiary requesting the members of the Synod to visit that institution whereupon Resolved, as many Ministers as are dispersed will visit the institution tomorrow at 8 a.m.

There was a collection taken up from the members of the Synod amounting to \$44.50.

Resolved, that this Synod cordially approved the appointment by the last General Assembly of the semi-centenary thanksgiving on the 2nd Sabbath of December next and appreciate highly the object for which collections are recommended to be made on the day set apart for said thanksgiving;

and with this expression of opinion leave it to the discretion of the Pastors and Elders of the several churches to take such order for the observance of the day as they may deem best.

The Presbyteries of Elizabeth town, New Brunswick, Newton, Susquehanna and Caledonia presented their written reports on the state of Religion within their bounds which were referred to Mr. Rice, Kirkpatrick and Murray to draft a narrative.

Mr. Perkins had leave of absence from the remaining sessions of Synod.

The Synod took up the report of the committee on the printed Minutes and inquired of the Presbytery what they done toward making collections to aid in defraying the expenses incurred in defending the suit against the Trustees of the General Assembly and it appeared they had attended to the subject.

An overture from the Presbytery of Newton was received relating to the division of that body which was read and made the order of the day for this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Resolved, that the Stated Clerk and Mr. Magie be a committee to publish such parts of the Minutes of this body as they may deem proper in the Presbyterian and New York Observer.

Synod had a recess until 3 o'clock.

After recess the Synod met- present as before together with the Rev. Robert Birch and Mr. John Woodhull of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and the Elder from the congregation of Freehold and Rev. James Clark of the Presbytery of _____ who assigned satisfactory reasons for not attending sooner.

The Synod took up the petition of the Presbytery of Newton to division of said body and the following was adopted, viz., (see petition on said Pres.).

Mr. Henry, Mr. Rev. McLane, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Carahan, Mr. James Miles had leave of absence from the remaining session of Synod.

The committees on the records of the Presbytery of Elizabeth town, New Brunswick, Lewton, Musquahanna and Caledonia report that they are approved.

The committee appointed to draft a narrative of the State of Religion within our bounds reported the following which was read and adopted.

The committee on the application from the Presbytery of Caledonia respecting their receiving a foreign Minister made its report. Was adopted.

The treasurer was directed to pay the Janitor's Bill amounting to three dollars.

The following inquiry was presented by the committee of overture, viz., see overture, which was laid on the table.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of continuing the observance of the Lord's Supper at the successive meeting of the Synod reported (on file).

The Synod had a recess until 7 o'clock, after recess the Synod attended to the celebration of the Lord's Supper agreeably to the arrangements previously adopted.

Rev. Mr. Lorraine and Mr. Snowden and Mr. Inhauser Elder were appointed to make arrangements for religious exercises during the session of the Synod at its next meeting reported the following recitation (see report) which was adopted.

Stated Clerk to make out his report.

The committee to whom was referred the communications from the General Agents of the three Boards of the General Assembly reported the following.

Resolution of thanks (insert here).

Adjourned to meet at Wilkesbarre.

Thanks to the congregation for their kindness, etc.

A P P E N D I X

1. RESOLUTIONS AND IMPORTANT ACTIONS.
2. NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION.
3. PRESBYTERIAL STATISTICAL REPORTS.

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MINUTE CONCERNING PRESBYTERY OF NEWARK

Whereas the Synod at its last meeting in Morristown resolved, that the Presbytery of Newark be enjoined between that time, and the meeting of the General Assembly in 1839 to decide on its course in reference to the attendance of its commissions on the body claiming to be the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and which convened in the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, in May 1838- and should that presbytery send commissioners to the body appointed to meet in Philadelphia in May next, by the body aforesaid, that the said Presbytery should be considered thenceforth as no longer in connection with this Synod, and whereas the said Presbytery of Newark did send commissioners to the said body in May last, as appears by the printed minutes of said body, therefore by said act and resolution the Presbytery of Newark is no longer connected with this Synod.

DIVISION OF PRESBYTERY OF NEWTON

The Synod took up the overture from the Presbytery of Newton, relating to a division of that Presbytery and Resolved, That, agreeably to the request contained in their petition, the Presbytery of Newton be divided into two Presbyteries.

Resolved, That the following be the line of division, Beginning at the mouth of the Musconetcong Creek running West so as to include the Congregation of Durham, Pa., and from the same point Eastward, including all the Ministers and Churches South of said Creek (Except the Rev. John McKair and the church of Musconetcong Valley) and that these ministers and churches, viz, The Rev. Joseph Campbell, D. D., Rev. Jacob Kirkpatrick, Rev. Holloway M. Hunt, Jr., Rev. James M. Olmstead, Rev. James Scott, Rev. David Full, Rev. Albert Williams, Rev. Joseph Worrell, and the Rev. William McJinsey with the churches of Milford, Amwell United 1st and 2nd, Pleasant Grove, Flemington, German Valley, Fox Hill, Clinton, Amwell 1st Church, Durham, Amwell 5th Church, and Kingwood be erected into a new Presbytery to be called the Presbytery of Raritan.

Resolved, That the Rev. Peter C. Studdiford and the churches of Lambertsville and Solebury of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, be set off from said Presbytery to the Presbytery of Raritan.

Resolved, That Mr. William Middle, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Newton, be attached to the Presbytery of Raritan.

Resolved, That the Presbytery of Raritan hold its first meeting at Flemington on the 1st Tuesday of November next at 2 o'clock P. M. and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Joseph Campbell, D. D., or in case of his absence by the older ministers present, who shall preside until a Moderator be chosen.

NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION

The Synod of New Jersey now consists of 6 Presbyteries to wit; Elizabethtown, New Brunswick, Newton, Susquehanna, Caledonia, and Raritan, and the present meeting of about ninety members.

The causes which have thus reduced our numbers are well known to the churches; and whatever may be the judgement and feelings of some on this subject, it is matter of joy and thanksgiving that we are left in harmony of views as to doctrine and church order. The past year has been marked by many tokens of the regards of the King of Zion. These tokens of favor appear in the attendance of the people on the regular means of grace, which to a great extent are enjoyed by most of our churches, in the soundness of the instructions given both by pastors and Sabbath School teachers-in a growing attention to catechetical instruction and Bible classes-and in the increasing attachment of the people to the standards and institutions of the church, and to the agencies by which the General Assembly is laboring to advance the cause of Christ in the world, and although there is reason to deplore a dearth of those special effusions of divine influence, in which in years past, we had cause greatly to rejoice, yet hath the Lord not left himself without witnesses amongst us of these displays of his sovereign grace. The churches of Allentown and Lambertsville in the Presbytery of New Brunswick, with those of Wilkesbarre and Warren-in the Presbytery of Susquehanna have been graciously visited by the Spirit of God, and numbers added of such as it is believed shall be saved. But whatever calls for gratitude and praise these may be in the dispensations of God towards us, these are yet more solemn calls to humiliation and penitence for the spiritual apathy and worldliness which so much abound. It is believed that there is much piety and zeal and self denial and christian liberality in our churches, and yet in the tract of country over which the influence of this Synod ought to be felt, there is much that offend, God, and destroyed the souls of men.

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PRESBYTERIAL
STATISTICAL REPORTS

1. The Presbytery of Elizabethtown, report to the Synod of New Jersey, that they consist of 28 Ministers, and have under their care 22 Congregations, 5 Licentiates, and 5 Candidates.

The Presbytery report further that on the 23rd of October 1838, they installed the Rev. James P. English Pastor of the Church of Liberty Corner, and on the same day ordained Mr. Charles L. Mills to the work of the Gospel ministry as an Evangelist; that on the 18th of April 1839, they licensed Messrs. David W. Lyon, Philemon W. Coe, and William P. Reeve to preach the gospel; that on the 3rd of October, they dismissed Mr. William P. Reeve to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Wooster, Ohio, and on the same day erased the name of the Rev. Alexander C. Fraser from the list of ministers in the Presbytery.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

JAMES M. HEWING, Stated Clerk.

2. The Presbytery of New Brunswick report to the Synod of New Jersey, that they consist of 37 Ministers, and have under their care 21 Congregations, 16 Licentiates, and 6 Candidates.

The Presbytery further report that on the 18th day of October 1838, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Benjamin Ogden and the Congregation of Pennington-- that on the 5th of November 1838, they installed the Rev. Daniel V. McLean Pastor of the Village Church, Freehold-- that on the 6th of the same month, they installed the Rev. Charles Webster Pastor of the Church of Middletown Point-- that on the 18th of December, they dismissed the Rev. Stephen

R. Wynkoop to join the Presbytery of New Castle--that on the 5th of February 1839, they received the Rev. Joseph W. Blythe from the Presbytery of Monroe, and dismissed the Rev. Frederic L. Ernst to join the Presbytery of Clinton--the Rev. Charles Fitch to join the Presbytery of Columbus-- Mr. Joseph B. Hadden a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Wuhlenburg--Mr. Aaron W. Hand a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery Flint River--Mr. Samuel Y. Wyley a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Holsten, and Mr. John F. Balch a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of North Alabama-- that on the same day they licensed Mr. Owen W. Canfield to preach the gospel; that on the 7th of the same month, they ordained Mr. George Hale to the work of the gospel ministry and installed him Pastor of the Church in Pennington; that on the 13th of the same month they installed the Rev. Joseph W. Blythe Pastor of the 2nd Church of Cranbury--that on the 2nd of March they dismissed Mr. James Whott a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Blairsville-- that on the 14th of March they received the Rev. Robert Birch from the 2nd Presbytery of New York, and on the same day installed him Pastor of the Church in New Brunswick-- that on the 23rd of April they dismissed Mr. William Wright a licentiate to put himself under the care of the classis of Ulster, and licensed Messrs. Archibald A. Doake, John G. Howell, James Petrie, John V. Dodge, William Y. Allen, William McAuley, Milanthon W. Jacobus and Henry V. Camberen to preach the gospel; that on the same day they dismissed Mr. Archibald A. Doake, a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Holsten--and ordained Mr. Joseph Addison Alexander to the work of the gospel ministry as an Evangelist-- that on the 8th of August they dismissed Mr. Milanthon W. Jacobus a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of New York--Mr. Thomas W. Barra a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Wooster--that on the same day they reserved the Rev. Baynard R. Hall from the Presbytery of Newark--that they received the certificate given Mr. William Wright to the Classis of Ulster and placed his name on the list of licentiates; and licensed Mr. Jerome Twitchell to preach the gospel that on the 1st of October they

dismissed Mr. Elbridge Bradbury, a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Carlisle--that on the 2d of the same month, they dissolved the pastoral relation of the Rev. James Clark to the church of Freehold, and dismissed him to join the Presbytery of Newton, and that on the 15th of October they received the Rev. Abraham DeWitt from the Presbytery of Baltimore.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery,

WILLIAM P. COOLEY, Stated Clerk.

3. The Presbytery of Newton, report to the Synod of New Jersey, that they consist of 25 Ministers, and have under their care 36 Congregations, 5 Licentiates, and 9 Candidates.

The Presbytery further report that on the 18th of December 1838, they received under their care, Mr. Elias S. Schenk a licentiate from the Presbytery of New Brunswick--and on the same day dismissed the Rev. Arthur B. Bradford to join the Presbytery of Beaver, Pa.--that on the 16th of January 1839 they ordained Mr. Elias S. Schenk to the work of the gospel ministry and installed him Pastor of the Church of Hacketts-town--that on the 13th of February they ordained Mr. Daniel Gaston to the work of the gospel ministry and installed him pastor of the church of Beaver Meadows--that on the 23rd of April, they received the Rev. Albert Williams, from the Presbytery of Newark--that on the same day they dismissed the Rev. Azariah Prier to join the Presbytery of Philadelphia--that on the 24th of the same month, they licensed Mr. Isaac Hall to preach the gospel--that on the 14th of May they installed Rev. Albert Williams pastor of the church of Clinton--that on the 25th of June, they installed the Rev. Thaniel B. Condict Pastor of the church of Stillwater--that on the 26th of June, they ordained Mr. Jonathon W. Sherwood to the work of the gospel ministry and installed him Pastor of the churches of Hardwick and Marksborough--that on the 1st of October they dismissed the Rev. Jehiel Talmage to join the Presbytery of New Lisbon, Ohio--and the Rev. John McCullough

to join the Presbytery of Mississippi--that on the 2nd of October they dismissed Mr. John Turbitt a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Alleghany Pa., and on the same day licensed Mr. William Riddle and Mr. Charles F. Worrel to preach the gospel. The Presbytery further report that on the 3d of July 1839, the Rev. William B. Cloan, the oldest member of this Presbytery departed this life.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

ISAAC N. CANNON, Stated Clerk.

4. The Presbytery of Susquehanna, report to the Synod of New Jersey, that they consist of 9 Ministers, and have under their care 16 Congregations.

The Presbytery further report that in the month of April 1839, the Rev. Salmon King, the oldest member of the Presbytery departed this life--and that on the 25th of August, they dismissed Mr. Samuel Helme a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Missouri.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

JOHN DONNANCE, Stated Clerk.

5. The Presbytery of Caledonia, report to the Synod of New Jersey, that they consist of 6 Ministers, and have under their care 5 Churches.

The Presbytery further report that they held their first meeting on the 20th of November 1838, in compliance with the order from the Synod--that on the 19th of February 1839, they received the Rev. Lewis Choeseeman and the Rev. Silas Pratt from the Presbytery of Rochester, and the Rev. Owen Brown from the Presbytery of Champlain--that on the 20th of August

they received the Rev. Thomas Atkin of the United Associate
Presbytery of Cupar of life in connection with the United
Secession Church, Scotland, a probationer; and that on the
24th of September, they installed the Rev. John W. Reddington
Pastor of the Church at Moscow.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

ISAAC W. PLATT, Stated Clerk.

